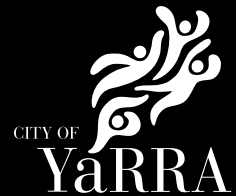


# Yarra Activity Centres Standing Advisory Committee

## Information Sheet



### **What is a Standing Advisory Committee?**

Advisory Committees are appointed by the Minister for Planning under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* to advise on any matter which the Minister refers to it.

The Yarra Activity Centres Standing Advisory Committee (the Committee) was appointed by the Minister for Planning on 9 August 2021 to provide timely advice to the Minister and Yarra City Council on referred planning matters and associated draft Yarra Planning Scheme provisions for Yarra's strip shopping centres (activity centres) and other areas of urban change.

The objective of the Committee is to provide consistent advice in a transparent, simpler, more timely and cost-efficient process on any proposed new planning provisions referred to it by the Minister.

Advisory Committees are guided by a document called a "Terms of Reference" which outlines the scope of the Advisory Committee and the process it should generally follow. The Committee is administered by *Planning Panels Victoria*. More information about the Committee is on *Planning Panels Victoria's* website and can be [viewed here](#).

### **Why has a Standing Advisory Committee been set up for Yarra?**

Yarra City Council is currently progressing a series of proposed changes to the planning scheme to introduce built form and design requirements in areas that are experiencing greater pressure for development.

In recent years, Yarra City Council has carried out a significant amount of strategic work and has successfully introduced built form and heritage requirements to activity centres along

Johnston Street, Queens Parade and Swan Street (awaiting approval). However, there is a need to provide built form and design requirements for other activity centres in Richmond, Abbotsford, Collingwood and Fitzroy, providing certainty about appropriate overall building heights and other built form and design requirements and managing new development in the longer term.

In late 2020, the Minister for Planning extended an invitation to Yarra City Council to appoint an Advisory Committee to help process the requested built form and design requirements across Yarra's activity centres and associated areas in an efficient manner.

Council considered the Minister's offer at its Council meeting on 2 March 2021 and decided to request the Minister for Planning set up and appoint an Advisory Committee.

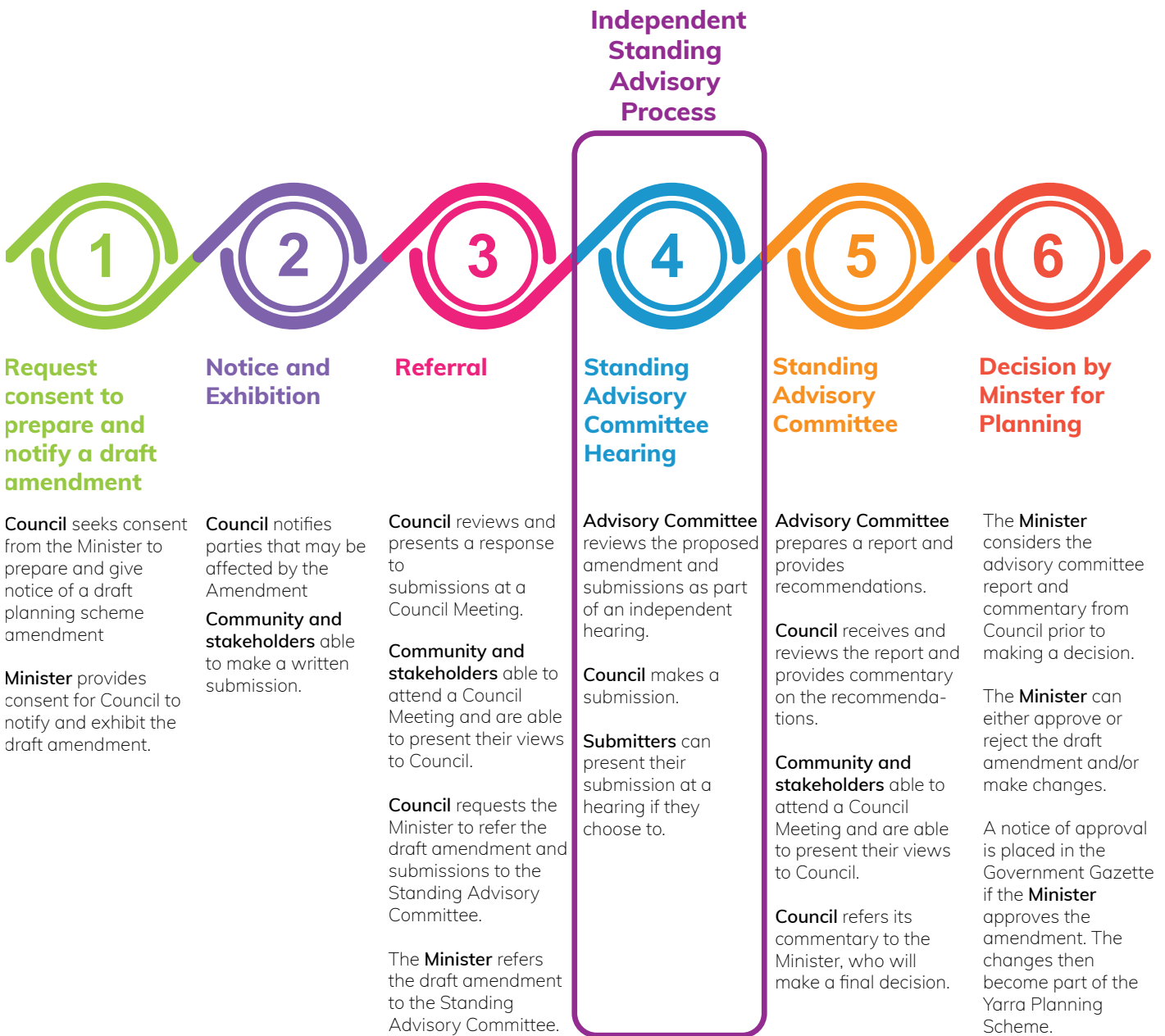
The Yarra Activity Centre Standing Advisory Committee was appointed by the Minister for Planning on 9 August 2021.

The Minister for Planning issued the Committee with Terms of Reference on 10 June 2021 to guide its work. The [Yarra Activity Centres Standing Advisory Committee Terms of Reference](#) are on *Planning Panels Victoria's* website and can be [viewed here](#).

As per Terms of Reference, the purpose of the Committee is '... to provide timely advice to the Minister for Planning and Yarra City Council on any relevant matters referred to it relating to strategic and built form work undertaken in relation to its activity centres and other areas of urban change, and any associated draft planning scheme amendments'.

## What are the steps in the process?

There are six steps in the overall draft amendment process. The Committee is part of Step 4.



## Can I have a say at a Standing Advisory Committee?

The Terms of Reference notes that it is important the Standing Advisory Committee process complements the Council's commitment to community engagement and provides for a robust engagement process to seek the views of the public and Council.

The Terms of Reference states that 'The Committee must conduct a hearing and provide an opportunity for submitters to be heard if requested by any submitter, including Yarra City Council.'

The Advisory Committee may undertake any of the following:

- a directions hearing
- a public hearing and provide an opportunity for submitters to be heard
- forums, meetings or workshops with one or more submitters or any other party
- a review of submissions based 'on the papers'.

If you want to be heard by the Committee at a public hearing, you'll need to have made a submission to a draft amendment during the public exhibition of the draft amendment.

## What happens after the Standing Advisory Committee hearings?

The Committee is required to provide a report with recommendations to the Minister within 40 business days from the completion of hearings.

Council will receive a copy of the Committee's Report and must make it public within 10 business days of receiving it.

Council was informed that it will have the opportunity to consider the Committee's Report at a Council meeting and provide

comments to the Minister on the Committee's Report. (Noting this matter is not addressed in the Terms of Reference.)

The Minister will then consider the draft amendment. If the amendment is approved by the Minister, the draft planning scheme amendment will become operational and form part of the Yarra Planning Scheme.

## Where can I find more information?

To view the draft amendments that are proposed to be considered by the Standing Advisory Committee, visit Yarra's Standing Advisory Committee Webpage:

<https://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/the-area/planning-for-yarras-future/yarra-planning-scheme-and-amendments/standing-advisory-committee-and-draft-amendments>

For further information on the committee, also see Planning Panels Victoria's website:

<https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/panels-and-committees/browse-panels-and-committees/projects/yarra-activity-centres-standing-advisory-committee>